



U.S. Department of Energy  
**Office of River Protection**

P.O. Box 450  
Richland, Washington 99352

NOV 15 2002

02-ORP-108

Mr. John J. David  
Business Representative  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 66  
13513 N.E. 126<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite A-1  
Kirkland, Washington 98034-8725

Dear Mr. David:

**HANFORD ATOMIC METAL TRADES COUNCIL (HAMTC) REPRESENTATION FOR  
VITRIFICATION PLANT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE WORKFORCE**

Thank you for your October 18, 2002, letter regarding the future operation and maintenance of the Hanford Site vitrification plant.

In summary, the contract to operate and maintain the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) has not been awarded and is currently scheduled for award in two to five years. However, the Washington Group International (WGI), as part of the Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) team, provides an operations perspective to assist with the design, construction, and commissioning of the WTP. In that capacity, WGI will be hiring exempt personnel with operations experience. These personnel will be developing policies and procedures, and providing operations support to help ensure the WTP is operable and maintainable. These current operations personnel are to be trained at the new BNI Training Facility.

U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) will discuss specific plans for plant operations, including the training of plant operations and maintenance personnel, with BNI during the second half of 2003. The current plan is to require BNI to begin training in mid-2004 in preparation for cold commissioning operations, which are anticipated to start in mid-2005. Hot commissioning is not planned to occur until 2007 at the earliest.

Upon selection of the operations contractor, HAMTC and other unions interested in organizing the labor force will be free to interface with the contractor and their representatives. As mentioned above, the award for the operations contractor is two to five years away. The selected operations contractor will determine the type of training needed for operations and maintenance personnel and where those specific training needs will be acquired.

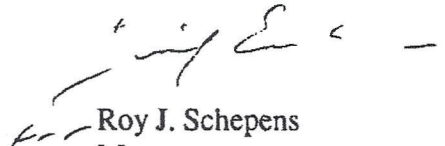
Mr. John J. David  
02-ORP-108

-2-

NOV 15 2002

Although the DOE is prohibited from intervening in matters involving collective bargaining agreements, ORP is committed to working with labor to support the cleanup of the Hanford Site. This office will continue to update labor organizations on the status of the proposed future contract. If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Greg Jones, ORP Executive Officer, (509) 373-4183.

Sincerely,



Roy J. Schepens  
Manager

cc: J. A. Goeckner, RL  
T. Schaffer, HAMTC  
Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate  
Patty Murray, U.S. Senate



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02-ORP-109

Mr. Paul Milliken  
Aerospace Machinists Industrial District  
Lodge 751 Local 86  
4226 East Mission  
Spokane, Washington 99202-4407

Dear Mr. Milliken:

**VITRIFICATION PLANT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

Thank you for your October 17, 2002, letter regarding the future operation and maintenance of the Hanford Site vitrification plant.

In summary, the contract to operate and maintain the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) has not been awarded and is currently scheduled for award in two to five years. However, the Washington Group International (WGI), as part of the Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) team, provides an operations perspective to assist with the design, construction, and commissioning of the WTP. In that capacity, WGI will be hiring exempt personnel with operations experience. These personnel will be developing policies and procedures, and providing operations support to help ensure the WTP is operable and maintainable. These current operations personnel are to be trained at the new BNI Training Facility.

U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) will discuss specific plans for plant operations, including the training of plant operations and maintenance personnel, with BNI during the second half of 2003. The current plan is to require BNI to begin training in mid-2004 in preparation for cold commissioning operations, which are anticipated to start in mid-2005. Hot commissioning is not planned to occur until 2007 at the earliest.

Upon selection of the operations contractor, HAMTC and other unions interested in organizing the labor force will be free to interface with the contractor and their representatives. As mentioned above, the award for the operations contractor is two to five years away. The selected operations contractor will determine the type of training needed for operations and maintenance personnel and where those specific training needs will be acquired.

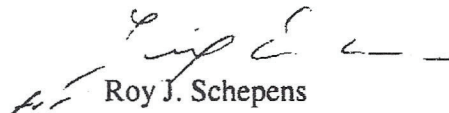
Mr. Paul Milliken  
02-ORP-109

-2-

NOV 15 2002

Although the DOE is prohibited from intervening in matters involving collective bargaining agreements, ORP is committed to working with labor to support the cleanup of the Hanford Site. This office will continue to update labor organizations on the status of the proposed future contract. If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Greg Jones, ORP Executive Officer, (509) 373-4183.

Sincerely,



Roy J. Schepens  
Manager

cc: J. A. Goeckner, RL  
T. Schaffer, HAMTC  
Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate  
Doc Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives  
Patty Murray, U.S. Senate





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JAN 16 2003

02-ORP-120

Mr. Randall L. Knowles, President  
Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy  
Workers International Union  
AFL-CIO, CLC, Local 8-0369  
P.O. Box 524  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Knowles:

VITRIFICATION PLANT OPERATIONS

Thank you for your November 12, 2002, letter regarding the future operation of the Hanford Site vitrification plant. Attached to your letter was a copy of sections of the Tank Waste Remediation System Privatization Contract between the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) and British Nuclear Fuels, Limited, Contract No. DE-AC06-96RL13308 – Mod. No. A006, Part I, Section H. The DOE, Office of River Protection (ORP), did honor the terms and conditions of the referenced contract during its existence.

DOE terminated the contract referred to in your letter. The terminated acquisition strategy was replaced with a new contract instrument. A new contractor, Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI), was selected through competitive source selection. This new contract instrument was not considered a successor contract.

Your letter also referenced preferential hiring to Section 3161 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993. Because this was not considered a successor contract, Preference in Hiring under Section 3161 was determined not to be applicable.

In reference to the construction of the facility, work is currently being performed under the Hanford Site Stabilization Agreement as agreed to between BNI and the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, its affiliated International Unions and the Teamsters.

The role of Washington Group International, as part of the BNI team, is to provide an operations perspective to assist in the design, construction, and commissioning of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant. In regard to your initial concern relating to the construction of a simulator training facility by BNI, ORP expects to discuss specific plans for plant operations, including the training of plant operations personnel, with BNI during the second half of 2003. The current plan is to require BNI to begin training in mid-2004 in preparation for cold commissioning operations, which are anticipated to start in mid-2005. Hot commissioning is not planned until 2007 at the earliest.

Mr. R. L. Knowles  
02-ORP-120

-2-


JAN 16 2003

Upon selection of the operations contractor, unions interested in organizing the labor force will be free to interface with the contractor and their representatives. As mentioned above, the award for the operations contractor is two to five years away. The selected operations contractor will determine the type of training needed for operations personnel and where those specific training needs will be acquired.

Although DOE will not intervene in matters involving collective bargaining agreements, ORP is committed to working with labor, as appropriate, to support the cleanup of the Hanford Site as in the past. This office will continue to update labor organizations on the status of the proposed future contract.

Should you have Industrial Relations questions, please contact Julie Goeckner, DOE-Richland Operations Office Contractor Industrial Relations, (509) 376-1198. If you have any other questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Greg Jones, ORP Executive Officer, (509) 373-4183.

Sincerely,



Roy J. Schepens  
Manager

ORP:GAJ

cc: Tom Schaffer, HAMTC  
S. J. Coleman, INNOV  
J. A. Goeckner, RL  
L. K. Garnigin, RL